

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5139

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, EI

SUBJ: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO CHARGE  
DURING SOCIAL ENCOUNTER NOVEMBER 2 THAT THE USG WILL NOT BRING  
SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS TO FORCE WITHDRAWAL TO POSITIONS  
HELD OCTOBER 22. NOTING THAT IRELAND WILL HAVE SOME 240 TROOPS  
IN BETWEEN THESE OPPOSING FORCES--TROOPS WHICH HE SAID WERE  
URGENTLY NEEDED AT HOME BECAUSE OF A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM WITH  
THE IRA -- FITZGERALD STOUTLY ARGUED THAT THE USG HAD SERIOUSLY  
ERRED IN "PERMITTING" THE ISRAELIS TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT  
VICTORY BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE THEM LESS LIKELY TO MAKE THE  
LONGER TERM CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO BRING A DURABLE PEACE TO  
THE AREA.

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2. CHARACTERIZING THE ISRAELIS AS "AGGRESSORS," FITZGERALD SAID

IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE USG IN ITS OWN INTEREST NOW DO "WHAT-EVER WAS NECESSARY" TO FORCE THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THE TENTIONS ALREADY GENERATED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE ON THIS ISSUE WERE SEVERE. CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WITHOUT FORCING A SETTLEMENT, OR AT LEAST WITHOUT FORCING ISRAELI CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO SETTLE, WOULD COST THE U.S. HEAVILY IN EUROPE. IN THE LONGER TERM, WITHOUT SUCH A SETTLEMENT FITZGERALD PREDICTED OUR "UNQUALIFIED" SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WOULD ALTER THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF OUR RELATIONS, AND HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS.

3. AS ALWAYS, FITZGERALD'S PRESENTATION WAS SPIRITED BUT PERSONALLY FRIENDLY. DRAWING ON BACKGROUND SUPPLIED BY DEPT, CHARGE REVIEWED SITUATION THAT FORCED US TO RESUPPLY THE ISRAELIS AND SAID THAT OUR INFLUENCE OVER THE SITUATION WAS MORE LIMITED THAN THE MINISTER SEEMED TO APPRECIATE. AS TO THE DANGERS OF NOT ACHIEVING A DURABLE SETTLEMENT, CHARGE SAID THAT IT WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE ARABAS AND ISRAELIS IN THE SEARCH FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT THAT TALKS HAD BEEN GOING ON IN WASHINGTON AND THE SECRETARY WAS FLYING TO CAIRO AND OTHER ARAB CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: IRISH ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST ARE MARKEDLY PRO-ARAB, AND THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANY, SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL. ITS POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS COMPARED IN THE IRISH MIND TO AN INTRUSION OF FOREIGN POWER IN IRELAND.

IN THE SHORT RUN THERE WILL BE LITTLE WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THESE VIEWS BEYOND KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY INFORMED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF WE COULD BRIEF FITZGERALD ON THE LARGER SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED  
IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 217489. THIS WOULD EDUCATE HIM TO THE CONCERNS THAT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC AND COULD HELP TO DRAW THE IRISH INTO BEING MORE AWARE OF STRATEGIC PROBLEMS. SORENSEN

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